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Book No.

# Mysore Archæological Series

# ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE IN MYSORE

No. I

## THE KESAVA TEMPLE AT SOMANATHAPUR

BY

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Published under the authority of the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore

BANGALORE:

PRINTED AT THE MYSORE GOVERNMENT PRESS
1917

On sale by the Curator, Government Book Depôt, Bangalore Price Rs. 2 or 3s.

#### INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

"THE extraordinary wealth of the artistic products of Mysore," as disclosed by my Annual Reports, has attracted considerable attention both in India and outside. Considering its area, Mysore is extremely rich in the number of its artistic structures, the majority of which are built in the style named 'Chalukyan' by Fergusson, and the rest in the Dravidian style. The name Chalukyan is undoubtedly a misnomer so far as Mysore is concerned, seeing that all the buildings of this style in Mysore were erected during the rule of the Hoysalas. According to Fergusson himself this style attained its fullest development and highest degree of perfection in the dominions of the kings of the Hoysala dynasty. The name 'Hoysala' ought to be adopted as the more appropriate designation of the style. With very few exceptions, such as the temples at Tonachi, Angadi, Belgami, Kuppatur and Chikka-Hanasoge, which go back to the eleventh century, all the Hoysala buildings in Mysore came into existence in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The period of the ornate structures of the Dravidian style in Mysore ranges from the eighth to the sixteenth century.

The list, which is by no means exhaustive, of the monuments built in the two styles mentioned above, appended to this Note with some particulars relating to them, is enough to give some idea of the richness of Mysore in these artistic treasures. The dates given in a few cases are approximate. Fergusson has briefly described and illustrated about half a dozen of these temples. Mr. and Mrs. Workman have similarly dealt with a few more. Mr. Rice has briefly noticed several others besides in his volumes of the Epigraphia Carnatica. But the descriptions given by these scholars cannot but be incomplete, since the interior of most of the temples was a sealed book to them. Further, they have scarcely paid any attention to the sculpture of the buildings. In my Annual Reports I have not only given much additional information concerning the temples dealt with by the above-mentioned scholars, but have also described and illustrated a large number of buildings

not known before. I have, besides, furnished "an immense amount of entirely new matter descriptive of the sculpture," the illustration, especially, of individual works of art signed by the artists having aroused considerable interest among scholars in Europe. Still, as a glance at the list will show, there are many monuments which await and deserve to be described and illustrated.

A wish has been expressed in several quarters that the mass of literature bearing on temple architecture and iconography which is increasing in volume ought to be embodied in permanent form removed from the pages of the Annual Reports. It is under contemplation to prepare and publish a monograph on Hoysala architecture in Mysore. In the meantime it is proposed to issue about half a dozen short monographs with suitable illustrations on a few notable buildings of the Hoysala and Dravidian styles in the State, treating of both their architecture and sculpture. The present work on the Kesava temple at Somanathapur forms the first of the series. The illustrations have been prepared by Mr. T. Namassivayam Pillai, the Photographer and Draughtsman of my Office. My thanks are due to Mr. C. H. Yates, Superintendent, Government Press, for kind suggestions with regard to the get-up of the book and the personal care bestowed on the arrangement and printing of the illustrations.

Bangalore, December 1916. R. NARASIMHACHAR.

# PROVISIONAL LIST OF ARTISTIC BUILDINGS OF THE HOYSALA AND DRAVIDIAN STYLES IN MYSORE.

#### HOYSALA.

Темрия				PLACE			Period	REIGN		REMARKS
1.	Basavesvara			Tonachi	•••		C 1047	Vinayaditya.	•••	
2.	Jain Bastis			Angadi			C 1050	do		
3.	Kodaresvara			Belgami			C 1060	do	•••	Triple
4.	Tripurantaka		•••	do			1070	do		Double
5.	Kaitabhesvara			Kuppatur			C 1070	đo	• • •	
6.	Adinatha-basti			Chikka Hanasoge		}	C 1090	do	• • •	Triplo
7.	Lakshmidevi			Dodda Gaddavalli			C 1115	Vishnuvardha	11a	Quadrupl
8.	Kesava	•••		Belur			1117	do		
9.	Kappe-Chemigara	y s.		do	•••		C 1117	đo		Double
10.	Kirtinarayana			Talkad			1117	do		
11.	Kesava			Maralo			1180	do		<b></b>
12.	Siddhesvara	•••	•••	do			1130	đo	•••	
13.	Parsvanatha-basti			Halebid			1133	do	•	
14.	Hoysalesvara			đo			C 1141	Narasimha I		Double
15.	Jain Basti			Cholasandra	• • •		1145	do	• • •	Triple
16.	Kesava	•		Honnavara			1149	ob	•••	
17.	Isvara			Anekouda			C 1160	do		
18.	Kesava			Dharmapura			1162	do	• - •	
19.	Do	•		Hullckero	•••		1163	do	•••	
20.	Hoysalesvara			Tenginagatta	•••		C 1163	ďο		
21.	Kesava	•••		Nagamangala	• • •		C 1170	đo	•••	Triple
22.	Brahmesvara	• • • •		Kikkeri		!	1171	ďο	•••	
28.	Buchesvara	• • • •		Koramangala			1178	đο		
24.	Akkana-basti			Sravana Belgola	•••		1182	Ballala II		•••
26.	Amritesvara			Amritapura	• • •		1196	do		•
<b>26</b> .	Isvara	• • • •		Arasikere	•••		C 1200	do		
<b>7</b> .	Sautinatha-basti			Jinanathapura	•••		C 1200	do		•••
18.	Mahalingesvara	•••		Mavuttanhalli	•••		C 1200	do		Triple
<b>19</b> .	Chattesvara	•••		Chatchattanhalli	•••		C 1200	đo		đo
Ю.	Trimurti	•••		Bandalike	•••		C 1200	do		do
11.	Anekal			do			C 1200	do		do

vi

#### HOYSALA-concld.

Temple			PLACE			PERIOD REION			REMARKS
32.	Kodandarama	•••	Hirimagalur	•••		C 1200	Ballals II		****
88.	Siddhesvara	<b>.</b> .	Kodakani	•••		C 1200	do		
34.	Santinatha-basti		Bandalike			C 1204	do		
85.	Kirtinarayana		Heragu			1218	do		
36.	Kedaresvara		Halebid			1219	do	•	
37.	Virabhadra		do	•••		C 1220	do		
38.	Isvara		Nanditavare			C 1220	do	•••	
39.	Harihara		Harihar	•••		1224	Narasimha II		
40.	Bellur		Mule-Singesvara		•••	1224	do	•••	Triple
41.	Somesvara		Haruballi			1284	do	•••	
42.	Kesava		do			C 1234	do	•	
48.	Mallikarjuna		Basaral	•••		1235	do	••	Triple
44.	Lakshminarasimha		Nuggihalli	•••		1249	Somesvara	•••	do
45.	Sadasiya		do			C 1249	do	•••	
46.	Lakshminarasimba		Javagal	•••		C 1250	do	•••	Triple
47.	Isvara		Budanur			C 1250	do		
48.	Padmanabha		do	•••		C 1250	do		
49.	Panchalinga		Govindanhalli			C 1250	do	•••	Quintuple
50.	Kesava		Nagalapura			C 1250	do		
<i>5</i> 1.	Kedaresvara		do			C 1250	do	•••	
<b>52</b> .	Mallesvara		Hulikal			C 1250	do		•••
53.	Kesava		Tandaga	•••		C 1250	do	•	
54.	Lakshminarayana		Hosaholalu	• • • •		C 1250	do		Triple
ħ5.	Kosava		Turuvekere	•		C 1260	Narasimba III		
<b>5</b> 6.	Mule-Sankaresvara		do			C 1260	do		
<i>5</i> 7.	Kessva		Somanathapur			1268	do		Triple
68.	Madhavaraya		Bellur			C 1270	do	•••	đo
<i>5</i> 9.	laksbminarasimba		Hole-Narsipur		j	C 1270	do		do
60.	Narasimha		Vignasante			1286	do		do
•			DRAVI	DIAN.	••				Committee of the second
	Naudisvara	***	Nandi		(	C 800	Govinda III		then I I have been seen

		4				 		,	 THE P. S. A.P. L. P. B. P. S.
1.	Naudisvara		•••	Nandi		 C	800	Govinda III	 
2.	Lakshmanesvara,	etc.	•••	Δvani	•••	 С	940	Bira-Nolamba	 
8.	Chamundaraya-bas	ıti		Sravana Belgola		 c	980	Rajamalla	 

vii Dravidian—concld.

Temple				PLA	СК		PERIOD	REIGN	REMARKS
4,	Muktinathesvara		•••	Binnamangala	•••	•••	C1100	Kulottunga-Chola	
6.	Vaidyesvara	•••		Talkad			C 1100	<b>d</b> o	
6,	Panchakuta-basti			Kambadahalli	•••		C 1120	Vishnuvardhans	
7.	Somesvara			Kurudumale	•		C 1250	Ilavanji Vasudeva	
8.	Do	• • •		Kolar			C 1300	raya. Ballala III	
9.	Arkesvara	•••		Hale-Alur	•••	•	C 1300	<b>d</b> o	
10.	Vidyasankara	• • •		Sringeri			C 1356	Bukka I	
11.	Aghoresvara			Ikkeri	•••		C 1560	Sankanna-Nayaka	
12.	Ranganatha			Rangasthala			C 1600	Palegars	



## ARCHITECTURE AND SCULPTURE IN MYSORE.

### No. I.

## THE KESAVA TEMPLE AT SOMANATHAPUR.

OMANATHAPUR is a small village in the Tirumakūdalu-Narsīpur Taluk of the Mysore District in the Mysore State, situated about half a mile from the left bank of the river Kävöri. It is about 20 miles to the southeast of the historic town of Seringapatam. The Kēśava temple in the village is a splendid example of the so-called Chalukyan, but more correctly Hoysala, style of architecture. From the fine inscription on a slab in the entrance porch of the temple (Plate XXI), we learn that Soma or Somanatha, a high officer under the Hoysala king Nārasimha III (A. D. 1254-1291), established the village as an agrahara or rent-free settlement of Brahmans, naming it Sömanāthapura after himself, and built the Kēśava temple in it in A. D. 1268. There is also another inscription at Harihar,2 which refers to the construction of this temple and gives the same date. The object of the latter inscription is primarily to record another work of piety by the same officer, namely, the construction of a gopura or tower of five storeys, adorned with golden kalasas or finials, in front of the Hariharesvara temple at Harihar, a town on the right bank of the Tungabhadra, in the Davangere Taluk of the Chitaldrug District in the Mysore State, and it alludes incidentally to his erection of the Kėsava temple also.

The Kēśava temple is situated in the middle of a courtyard, about 215 feet by 177 feet, surrounded by an open veranda, which contains 64 cells (Plate II). It stands on a raised terrace, about 3 feet high, which closely

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Epigraphia Carnatica, III, Tirumakūdalu-Narsīpur 97.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Ibid., XI, Davangere 36.

follows the contour of the structure and is supported at the angles by figures of elephants facing outwards (Plate I). There are two empty pavilions at the sides in front of the entrance, the upper parts of which are gone. Around the terrace there are, besides the elephants mentioned above, free images representing Vishnu and other gods and goddesses leaning against it. Several of these images and elephants have been removed from their pedestals, only twelve in each class of sculptures being now left. Of the twelve images, eight represent Vishņu, one Gaņapati, one a Nāga, and two scated goddesses. temple is a trikūtāchala or three-celled structure, the main cell facing east and the other two, which are opposite to each other, facing north and south respectively. The three cells are surmounted by three elegantly carved towers which are identical in design and execution (Plates III and IV). These with their towers are attached to the navaranga or middle hall, to which again is attached, without any partition, the mukha-mantapa or front hall. front of the temple with its three towers presents an imposing appearance and has often been selected as a model for silver and gold caskets.

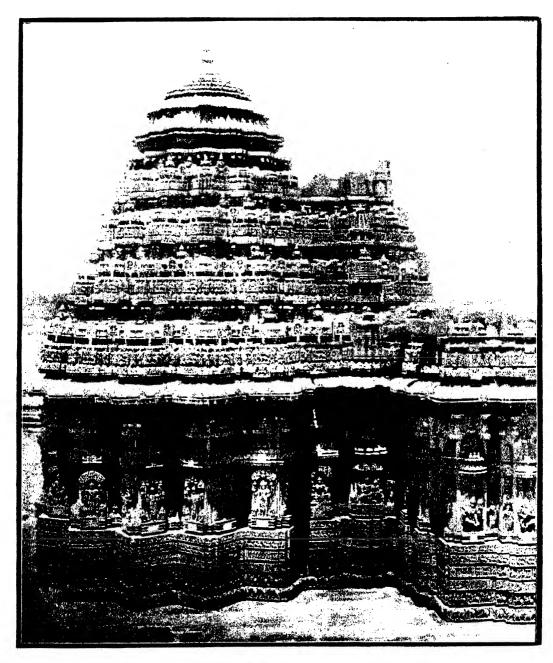
On both sides of the entrance, runs around the front hall a jagati or railed parapet, on which, beginning from the bottom, are sculptured in succession the following horizontal friezes: (1) elephants, (2) horsemen, (3) scroll work, (4) scenes from the epics and the Puranas, (5) turretted pilasters, with small images and lions intervening between them, and (6) a rail divided into panels by double columns, containing figures, sometimes indelicate, between neatly ornamented bands (Plate V). Above these come pierced stone windows or perforated screens (Plate VI). Plate VII shows the above friezes except the first two on an enlarged scale. Most of the images in the fifth frieze represent Vishnu. A large portion of the rail illustrates the story of Prahlada, as related in the Puranas (Plate V). From the corners on both sides of the entrance where the railed parapet ends, begins, in the middle of the outer walls, a row of large images with various kinds of ornamental canopies, and continues round the remaining portion of the temple (Plates VIII and IX). On Plate X are exhibited a few of the images on an enlarged scale. Below this row of images come six horizontal friezes. The first four of these are identical with those on the railed parapet; but in place of friezes 5 and 6 on the latter, the walls have a frieze of makaras or mythological beasts. surmounted by a frieze of swans. Above the row of large images runs a fine

cornice ornamented with bead work, and above this, again, a row of miniature turrets over single or double pilasters, surmounted by ornamental eaves. number of large images on the outer walls is 194, of which 114 are female. Their position is as follows:—around the south cell 54, 32 female and 22 male; at the corner between the south and west cells 14, 9 female and 5 male; around the west cell 58, 32 female and 26 male; at the corner between the west and north cells 14, 8 female and 6 male; and around the north cell 54, 33 female and 21 male. The gods and goddesses of the Hindu pantheon represented by the majority of the figures are Vishņu and his forms such as Narasimha, Varāha, Hayagrīva, Vēņugopāla and Paravāsudēva; Brahmā, Siva, Ganapati, Indra, Manmatha, Sürya, Garuda, Lakshmi, Sarasvati and Mahishāsuramardini. A few of the figures worthy of note may be mentioned: Garuda bearing on his left shoulder Nārāyana and Lakshmi; Indra scated with his consort Sachi on the elephant Airavata; dancing Vishnu and Ganapati; dancing Lakshmi and Sarasvati; a four-handed standing figure with the face of a monkey, two of the hands holding a discus and a conch, the other two holding between them what looks like a fruit (Plate XI, 1); and another four-handed seated figure with a discus and a conch in two hands, while the other two are placed palm over palm in the fashion of a Jaina tirthankara but with this difference that the right hand also shows the yōga-mudrā or attitude of meditation (Plate XI, 2)1. Of the fourth frieze from the bottom, which may be called the Puranic frieze, the portion running round the south cell represents scenes from the Ramayana, that around the west cell, scenes from the Bhagavata-purana and that round the north cell, scenes from the Mahabharata.

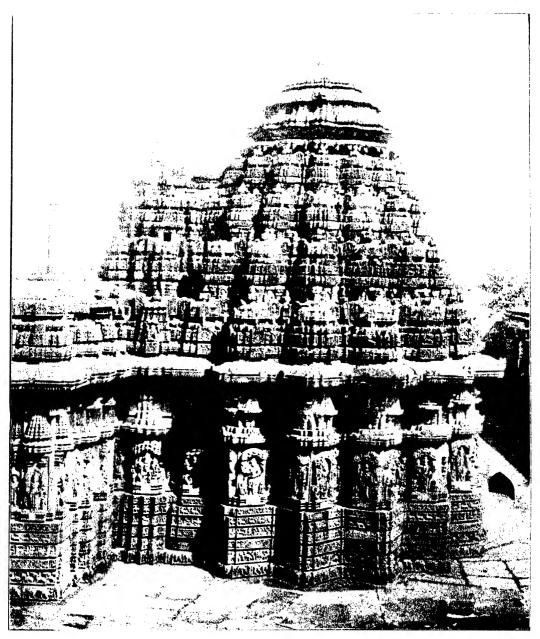
As stated above, the temple is triple, that is, it has three cells, and each cell consists of a garbha-griha or adytum and a sukhanasi or vestibule. The chief cell, that opposite the entrance, once enshrined an image of the god Kēšava, after whom the temple was named; but the image is no longer in existence. A few images of modern make are now kept in the cell. They consist of a seated figure of Lakshmīnārāyana, a standing figure of Lakshmana, and two seated figures of different sizes representing Lakshmi. The north cell has an image of the god Janārdana (Plate XII) and the south cell, an image of the god Vēnugōpāla or Krishna playing on the flute (Plate XIII).

Such a figure appears to be known as Yoga-Nārāyana.

Both of them are beautifully carved, though unfortunately the flute of the latter is broken. Judging from their execution, the chief image Kēsava must have been a piece of exquisite workmanship. The lintels of both the garbha-griha and sukhanāsi doorways of all the cells are well executed. In the chief cell, the lintel of the garbha-griha doorway has a seated figure of Vishņu above, and an image of Lakshmīnārāyaņa below with the figures of the ten incarnations of Vishnu sculptured round the base and a neatly carved tiny elephant at the left side; while that of the sukhanasi doorway has a figure of Paravāsudēva above and a figure of Kēšava below. The jambs of both the doorways have dvarapalakas sculptured at the bottom. This cell has two fine niches at the sides which, though empty at present, once enshrined figures of Ganapati and Mahishāsuramardini, as evidenced by the figures of these deities prominently sculptured on their towers. The prominence given to these deities in the interior of a temple dedicated to Vishnu is worthy of note. This peculiarity has been observed in several Vishnu temples in the Hoysala style. Though these deities are often represented on the outer walls or pillars, no such prominence appears to be given to them in Vishņu temples of the Dravidian style. The image of Janārdana in the north cell, about 6 feet high, is elegantly carved and stands on a pedestal, about 11/2 feet high, flanked by consorts (Plate XII). It has four hands, the upper two holding a discus and a conch and the lower two, a lotus and a mace. The prabha or halo has the ten avataras or incarnations of Vishpu represented on it. The lintel of the garbha-griha doorway has a seated figure of Vishņu above and a figure similar to figure 2 on Plate XI below, while that of the sukhanasi doorway has a figure of Lakshminarasimha above and a figure of Vishņu below. Vēņugopāla in the south cell is also a fine figure, about 6 feet high, standing under a honne tree (Terminalia tomentosa) on a pedestal, about 1½ feet high, flanked by consorts (Plate XIII). The image has only two hands which are engaged in playing on the flute. To the right of the image at the bottom is a small figure representing a cowherd; above this on both sides are cows listening intently to the notes of the flute; and above these, again, to the left are seated figures of sages with folded hands. The prabha of this image has likewise the ten incarnations of Vishnu sculptured on it. The lintel of the garbha-griha .doorway has, in the upper panel, a seated female figure with four hands, and.



NORTH TOWER.



SOUTH TOWER

in the lower, a seated figure of Vishņu holding a discus, a conch, a watervessel and a fruit. The lintel of the sukhanāsi doorway has a figure of Lakshmīnārāyana above and a figure of Vēṇugōpāla below. It is, indeed, fortunate that the sculptured semi-circular panel at the top of the inscribed slab in the entrance porch (Plate XXI) contains miniature representations of all the three images of the temple, so that, though the image of Kēšava has now disappeared, we are in a position to form some idea of its workmanship. The navaranga or middle hall has six ceiling panels and the mukha-mantapa or front hall nine. Every one of them is nearly three feet deep and very artistically executed, no two of them being similar in design. Plates XIV, XV and XVI show five of these ceilings. Four pillars support the navaranga and fourteen, the mukha-mantapa. Two of the latter are shown on Plate XVII. A narrow veranda runs round the front hall, whose walls have perforated screens all round (Plate VI). In spite of these screens the interior of the temple is very dark.

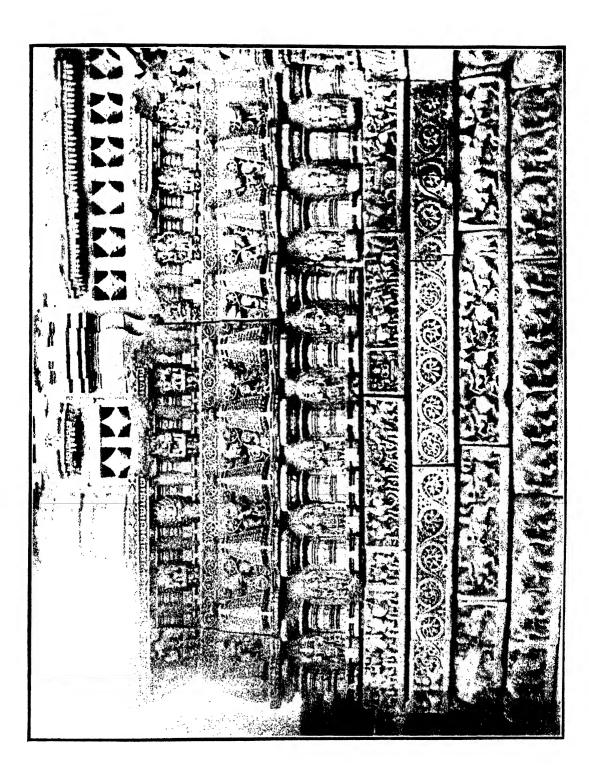
It is worthy of note that many of the large images on the outer walls bear inscribed on their pedestals the names of the artists who executed them. Such labels have also been found in a few other temples of this style in the Mysore State, such as those at Belür, Halebid, Nuggihalli, etc. Among the names of the sculptors that are engraved in the Kěšava temple at Somanathapur may be mentioned Mallitamma (also called Malli in two cases), Baleya, Chaudeya, Bāmaya, Masanitamma, Bharmaya, Nanjaya and Yalamasaya. The first name occurs below 40 sculptures, the second below 6, the third below 5, the fourth below 4, the fifth below 3, the sixth below 2, and the seventh and eighth below 1 each. From the above it will be seen that the artist Mallitamma had most to do with the ornamentation of the temple. He is evidently identical with the Mallitamma whose name occurs below several images on the north wall of the Lakshminarasimba temple at Nuggihalli in the Channarayapatna Taluk of the Hassan District, which was built in A. D. 12491, only 19 years before this temple. The habit that the Mysore sculptors had of signing their works is of special value to the historian of art. Elsewhere the names of artists are very rarely recorded. The figures on Plates XVIII and XIX represent five such signed images. the first two executed by Masanitamma and the remaining three by

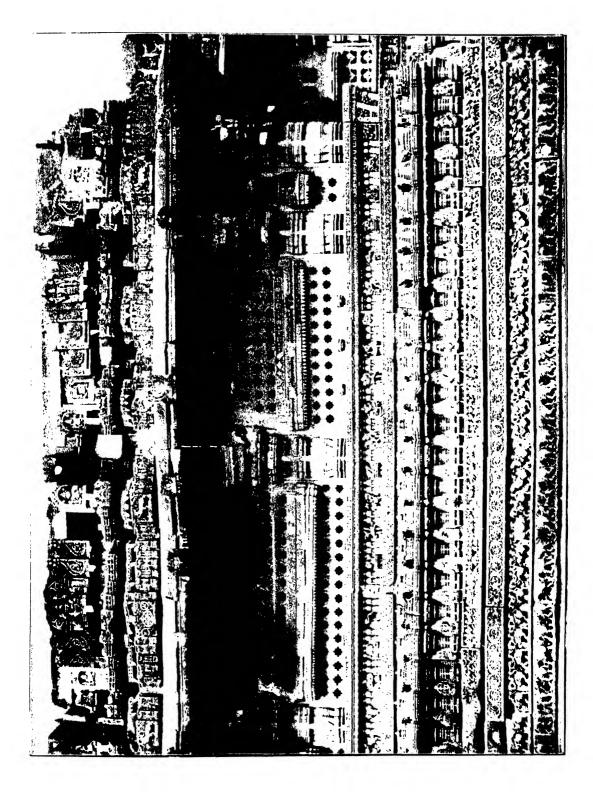
Musore Archaelogical Report for 1909, para. 84; also Report for 1913, para. 9.

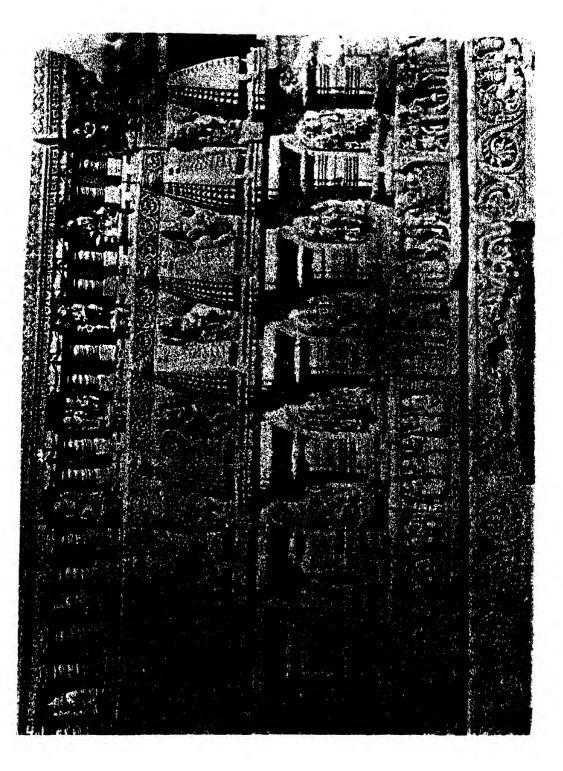
Chaudeya, Mallitamma and Yalamasaya respectively. The figures represent respectively Lakshmīnārāyaṇa, Manmatha or Cupid, Vishṇu, Mahishāsuramardini and Sarasvati. In this connection it may be mentioned that the stories popularly related of a sculptor named Jakaṇāchāri, who is believed to have built all the Hoysala temples in and around Mysore, are purely imaginary. No such name has been met with in any temple there. The word is merely a corruption of the Sanskrit Dakshiṇāchārya, i.e., a sculptor of the southern school, and does not denote any particular artist. Plate XX shows an elegantly carved figure of Sarasvati on an enlarged scale. It bears no label.

The cells in the open veranda surrounding the temple, which are sixtyfour in number, are all empty at present. But from the inscription in the temple we learn that they once enshrined sixty-four deities as detailed below:--six deities comprising Brahma and five others; twelve comprising Kēšava and eleven others; twelve comprising Hamsa-Nārāyana and eleven others; ten comprising the Fish incarnation of Vishnu and nine others; twelve comprising Sankarshana and eleven others; and twelve relating to the incarnation of Vishnu as Krishna. It may be noted here that the Garudagamba (or stone pillar with a figure of Garuda sculptured on it) of this temple, shown in Plate IV, is not exactly opposite the entrance as usual, but a little to the north-east. This peculiarity is traditionally accounted for as follows. When the temple was completed by Jakanāchāri, it looked so grand and beautiful that the gods, thinking that it was too good to be on the earth, wanted to transport it to Indra's heaven. Accordingly, the structure began to rise from the earth. Jakanāchāri was amazed at the sight and, in his eagerness to avert the calamity, set about mutilating some of the images on the outer walls, whereupon the building descended and occupied its present position.

A few words may now be said about the inscriptions relating to the temple. The inscribed slab in the entrance porch (Plate XXI) has four inscriptions of different dates incised in Kannada characters, two on the front face, one below the other, one on the west side and one on the east side. These are published as Tirumakūdalu-Narsīpur Nos. 97; 100, 98 and 99 respectively in Volume III of the *Epigraphia Carnatica*, the dates of the epigraphs being respectively A. D. 1269, 1281, 1300 and 1325. Of these, No. 97



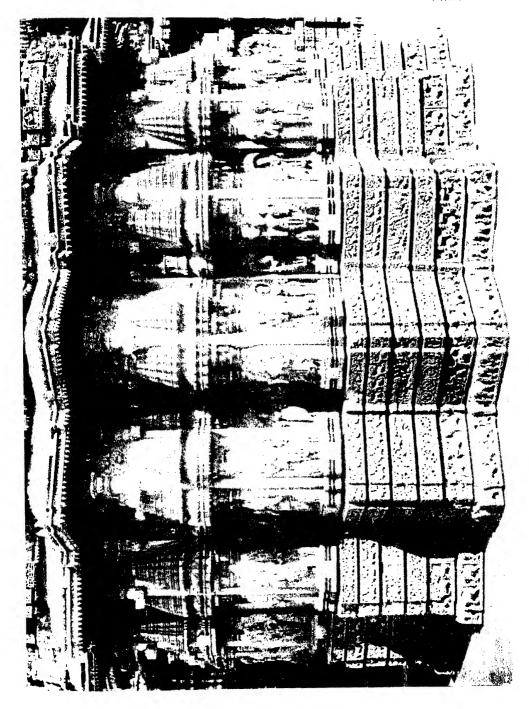


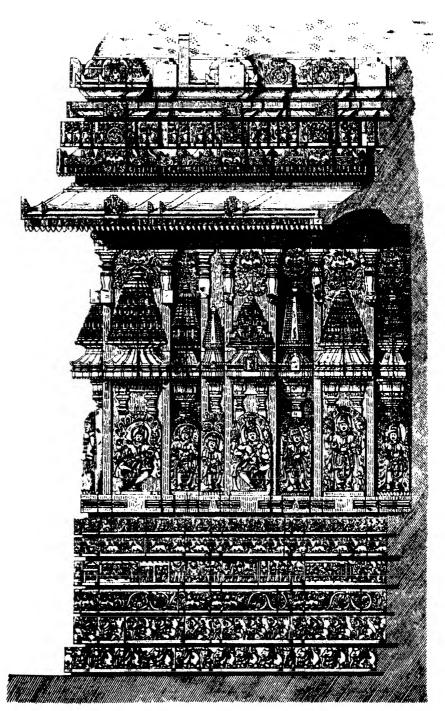


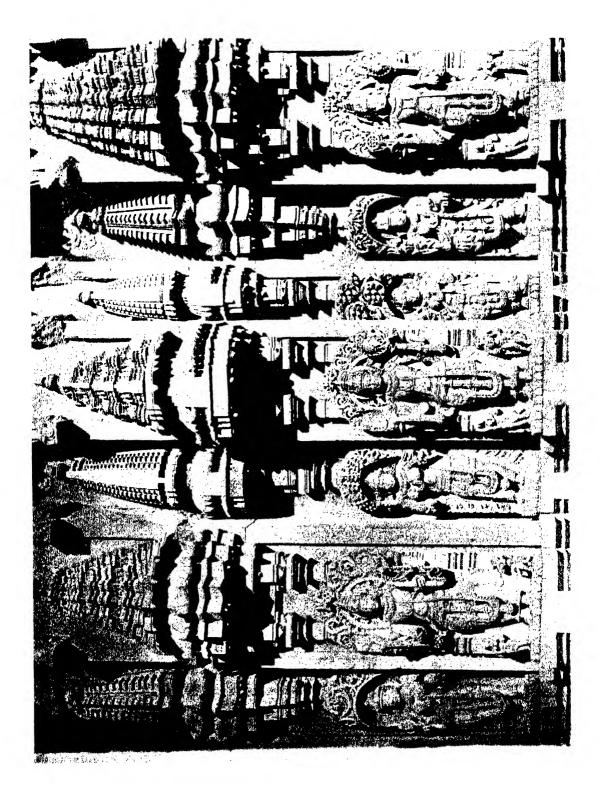
is the most important, as it was inscribed soon after the consecration of the temple and gives details about the gods that were set up and about the provision made for the services in the temple and for the livelihood of the temple servants. It is a long inscription consisting of 91 lines, the first seventeen being in the Sanskrit language and the rest in Kannada. After two invocatory verses in praise of the Boar incarnation of Vishnu, the epigraph proceeds to give the usual account of the rise of the Hoysalas and their genealogy down to Nārasimha III. We are then told that, when king Nārasimha was one day seated in the council chamber in his capital Dorasamudra (Haļēbīd), the minister Soma rose from his seat along with his nephews Malli-deva and Chikka-Ketaya and made obeisance to the king, whereupon the king understood his desire and gave him all he wished, besides making an annual grant of 3,000 (gold pieces) for the worship of the images of Vishnu set up in the agrahāra which he had founded. Sanskrit portion closes with the statement that Soma made a worthy distribution of the grant, as described further on in the Kannada language. Kannada portion of the record tells us that, when the refuge of all the world, favourite of earth and fortune, mahārājādhirāja, rāja-paramēśvara, lord of the excellent city of Dvārāvati, sun in the sky of the Yādava family, crest-jewel of the all-knowing, king of the hill chiefs, champion over the Malapas, terrible to warriors, fierce in war, sole warrior, firm in the field of battle, Sanivārasiddhi, Giridurgamalla, a Rāma in firmness of character, a lion to the elephants his enemies, a Kandarpa of unprecedented beauty, establisher of the Chola king, raiser up of the Pandya kingdom, uprooter of the Magara kingdom, setter up of pillars of victory at Sētu and the Vindhya mountains, profusely munificent in giving wealth and land, Srī-Vishņuvardhana-pratāpachakravarti Hoysala-bhujabala-śrī-vīra-Nārasimha-Dēvarasa was in the residence of Dōrasamudra, ruling the kingdom in peace and wisdom, on Wednesday, the 12th lunar day of the bright fortnight of Ashādha in the year Śukla corresponding to the Saka year 1192, he made a grant of the revenues of certain places to provide for the services, festivals, repairs and the livelihood of servants of the Kēśava temple caused to be erected by Sōmadannāyaka in the great agrahāra established by him in his own name. inscription then records the grant of the revenues of certain other places by Soma, the names of his parents being given as Hemmeya-dandanatha and

Révalā. Among the titles applied to Soma may be mentioned—great minister, gāyi-Gopāla, ganda-pendara, a jūba (? sacrificial post) to mandalikas, champion over proud mandalikas, a Dēvēndra among dandanāthas, a Svavambhū with his good sword (asi-vara), a Trinetra in wielding the sword, a Revanta in riding the most vicious horses, a Kritanta to the bostile army. We are then told that Malli-deva and Chikka-Ketaya, the nephews of Soma, made an allotment of the revenues for the gods and the temple servants. The rest of the record gives details of the allotment. The inscription calls the village Vidyānidhi-prasanna-Sōmanāthapura. The three images of the temple are named respectively Prasanna-Kēśava, Gandapendāra-Göpāla and Varada-Janārdana, the second image being so named after one of the titles of Soma. One of the gods outside the temple for whom also an allotment is made is "Lakshmīnarasimha on the bank of the Kāvēri." The temple dedicated to this god, which is situated a few yards from the bank of the Kāvēri to the south-west of the Kēśava temple, is now in ruins (Plate XXII. a). Though built in the Hoysala style, it is a plain structure without any sculptures on the outer walls. This temple is locally known as the 'Monnusāle temple,' because tradition has it that it was built by an artist with a maimed hand (mondu).

The remaining three inscriptions are all in Kannada. No. 100, engraved below the above-mentioned inscription, records a grant in A. D. 1281 by the same king to the āchāryas, Vaishņavas and nambis of the Kēśava temple. The signature of the king-Malaparol-ganda—is given at the end. No. 98, inscribed on the west side of the slab, registers a grant in A. D. 1300 to the mahājanas of the agrahāra by king Ballāļa III, son of Nārasimha III. No. 99, which is on the east side of the same slab, is dated in A. D. 1325 and records an agreement between the Vaishnavas and certain other mahajanas of the village with regard to the payment of certain sums of money in favour of the temple. Two more epigraphs have been recently discovered. One of them, dated A. D. 1497, is on a beam of the veranda on the south, while the other, dated A. D. 1550, is on a slab built into the ceiling of the veranda on the west. The former tells us that, during the reign of the Sāluva king Immadi Narasinga, on a petition being made to him about the restoration of the agrahara of Somanathapura, which had been originally founded by Soma-dandanatha but had subsequently gone to decay, he called







the notice of Nṛisimha, son of Iśvara to this matter, whereupon the latter directed Nañja-Rāy-Oḍeyar of Ummattūr to restore the agrahāra; and that accordingly this chief granted certain villages for the lingas and the god Kēśava of Sōmanāthapura and bestowed a number of vṛittis on various Brahmans. The other inscription records that, during the rule of the Vija-yanagar king Sadāśiva-Rāya, the mahā-maṇḍalēśvara Avubhaļarājaya-mahā-arasu, son of Rāmarāja-Timmarāja-Eṛedimmarāja of the lineage of Bukka-rāja of Āravaṭi, having been informed on enquiry that the Chaturvēdimangala Vidyānidhi-prasanna-Sōmanāthapura was the holy hermitage of Vasishṭha, remitted the taxes which were being paid to the palace by the Brahmans of the agrahāra. The signature of Avubhaļarājaya—Śrīranga-śayi—comes at the end.

The inscription at Harihar, which has already been referred to, also gives some details about the genealogy of Soma, the agrahara of Somanathapura founded by him and the gods set up therein. It is engraved in Kannada characters and consists of 88 lines, the first 42 of which are in the Sanskrit language. The Kannada portion of the record is more or less a paraphrase of the Sanskrit portion. After a few invocatory verses in praise of Sambhu, the Boar incarnation of Vishnu, Ganapati, Lakshmi, and Vishnu, the inscription gives the descent of Soma thus:-In the race born from the feet of Brahmā arose Rudra, who was a minister of king Hermādi, lord of Kalyāņa; his son was Mailaya-nāyaka; his son, Heggada-nāyaka, who was also a subordinate of the lord of Kalyāṇa; to him and his wife Rēvalā was born Soma. The Kannada portion gives a few more details:—Rudra, here named Ruddiya-nāyaka, had the title ganda-pendāra. His wife was Nannave. Mailaya-nāyaka served under the Chālukya king Jagadekamalla and had the title qavi-Govala. His wife was Rebbala. Then the inscription refers to the agrahara established by Soma on the bank of the Kaveri and the gods set up by him. The agrahāra was so full of learned men that even the parrots there were capable of holding discussions in mimamsa, tarka and vyakarana. In addition to the gods already mentioned as having been set up in the Kēšava temple, the record names the following:-Vishvaksēna, Indra and Sarasvati. The Kannada portion adds Ganapati, Bhairava, Sūrya and Durga, and gives a total number of seventy-four gods set up in the Kēsava temple. We are also told that Soma set up a number of lingas in .

the village. The Kannada portion names five of them set up in the northeast of the village. They are Bijjalēšvara, Pergadēšvara, Rēvalēšvara, Bayiralēšvara and Somanātha, the second and third being named after Soma's father and mother and the fifth after himself. These lingus are enshrined in a temple known as the Panchalinga, which is mostly in ruins. This is a large structure built of granite, containing five cells which stand in a line (Plate XXII, b), and there is also a fine inscription here, similar to the one at the entrance porch of the Kēšava temple and bearing the same date. The record then tells us that Soma's elder brother was Mēļaya, his nephew Malli-dēva and his family guru Gangādharārya. After a few verses in praise of the god Harihara, the Sanskrit portion closes with the statement that in the year Vibhava corresponding to the Saka year 1191 (A. D. 1268) Somanātha had a tower with golden kalašas made at the gate of the temple of Harihara. The Kannada portion adds that the tower was of five storeys and applies the following additional titles to Soma:—a jewel of ministers, a Chānakya in policy, a Yōgandhara in business, champion over traitors to their lord. It concludes thus: - When (with titles as given in a previous paragraph) Nārasimha-Dēvarasa was ruling the kingdom in peace and wisdom, his servant (with titles as given above), Soma-dandanatha, in the above-mentioned year, having founded the agrahara Vidyanidhi-prasanna-Somanathapura, built Saiva and Vaishnava temples there and set up the gods in them, made a tower at the eastern gateway of the Harihara temple in Harihara with five storeys and five golden kalasas.

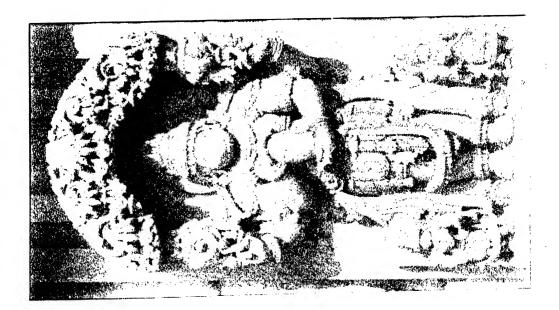
It may also be mentioned here that the above were not the only acts of piety of Sōma-daṇḍanātha. From some inscriptions at Turuvēkere, Tumkur District, we learn that he also founded Turuvēkere as an agrahāra under the name of Sarvajña-srī-vijaya-Nārasimhapura after his master Nārasimha III about the middle of the 13th century. The same inscriptions also lead us to suppose that the Chennakēšava and Mūle-Śankarēšvara temples at Turuvēkere, which are also in the Hoysaļa style, were caused to be erected by him.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Epigraphia Carnatica, III, Tirumakūdalu-Narsīpur 101.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Ibid., XII, Tiptur 2, 4 and 8.

Mysore Archaelogical Report for 1916, paras. 8 and 90.







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The Sanskrit portions of Tirumakūḍalu-Narsīpur No. 97 and the Harihar inscription are given in the Appendix at the end.

Fergusson, the great authority on architecture, whose work contains a woodcut of one of the towers of the Kêsava temple at Somanathapur, says:—

"The following woodcut will give an idea—an imperfect one, it must be confessed—of the elegance of outline and marvellous elaboration of detail that characterises these shrines. Its height seems to be only about 30 feet, which, if it stood in the open, would be almost too small for architectural effect; but in the centre of an enclosed court, and where there are no larger objects to contrast with it, it is sufficient, when judiciously treated, to produce a considerable impression of grandeur, and apparently does so in this instance."

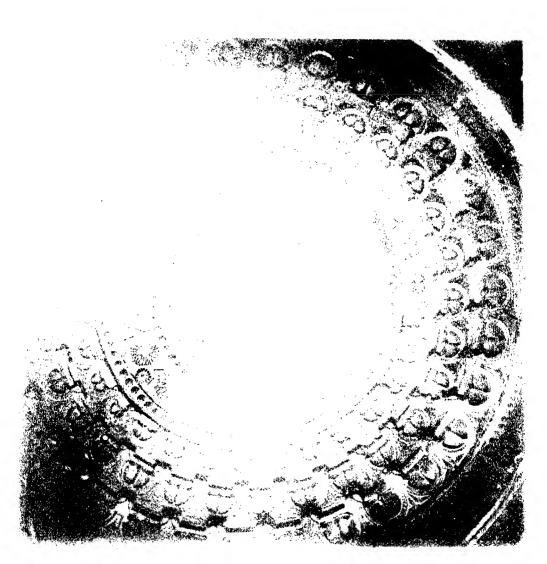
In Workman's Through Town and Jungle, which contains a few more details about the same temple, the following remarks occur:—

"The most complete and symmetrical, although the smallest of the three temples in Mysore, is at the village of Somanathapur.

If any parts can be called finer than others, the palm must be given to the three stellate towers. Their height from the plinth is about 32 feet, and not a square inch of their surface is without decoration. . . . . . These towers absolutely captivate the mind by their profusion of detail and perfection of outline; and there is no suggestion of superfluity in the endless concourse of figures and designs.

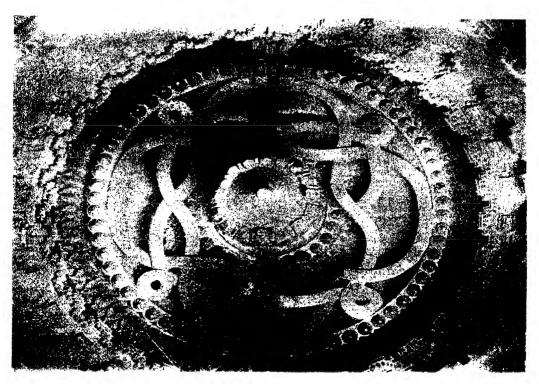
To construct a building of less than 35 feet in height, load it from bottom to top with carving, and produce the effect not only of beauty and perfect symmetry but also of impressiveness, shows supreme talent on the part of the architects."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> History of Indian and Eastern Architecture, 1, 438.

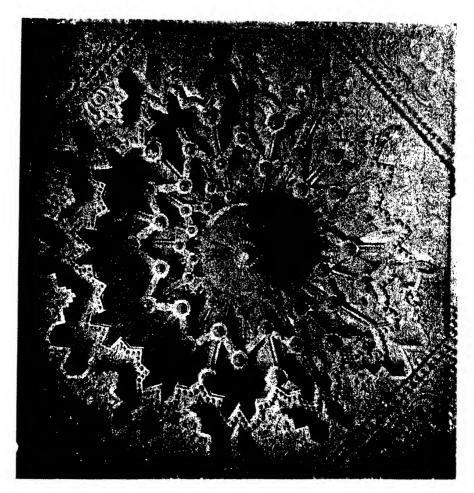


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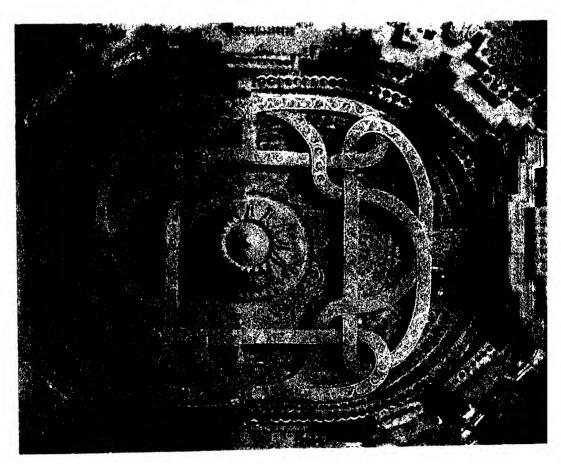
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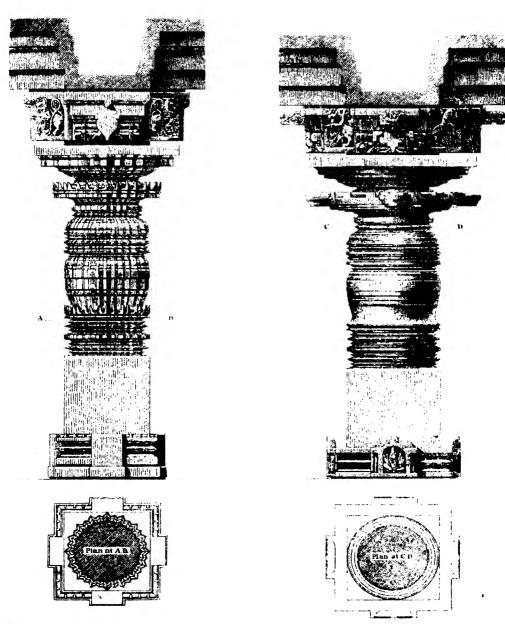
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#### **APPENDIX**

#### A

The Sanskrit portion (lines 1-17) of Tirumakudalu-Narasipur No. 97 at the Kesava temple, Somanathapur.

- 1 श्रीमित्सिधुतरंगताडनदशादैन्यातुदस्यन्महीं पायाद्वः परमः पुमान् परिगतः प्रौिद्धं व-राहात्मना । देष्ट्रासीमिन यस्य भूठदव-
- 2 इत् शाल्रशालकिश्यं यस्यासीद्विशालपव्यलिभः कल्लोलिनीयलभः ॥ नित्योत्भासि-म्निणाळकोमळनिजप्रोत्तुंगदंष्ट्रो-
- 3 स्थितं श्लोणीचक्रमभित्रसारितपयःपूराभिरामं महत् । सानंदं विकसत्सरोठहिथया सचस्सरोजालयामाद्भदामवलो-
- 4 क्य जातहस्तितः पोत्री हरिः पातु वः ॥ आविर्भावयति स्म नाभिनिलनान्नारायणो राजसं धातारं स चतुर्भुखश्चतुरया विश्वं धियाकल्पयत् । त-
- 5 स्मादित्ररभूदकृत्तिमतपास्तल्लोचनार्देदवं ज्योतिर्ज्ञातु जिं जगाम ववृते घंशस्ततो भृ-भुजां ॥ तस्मिन्वस्मयनीयचारुचरिते जातो यदुस्तन्मुखाः
- 6 प्रक्यातास्त्र परश्चातं भुजभृतः केचित् पुरा जाईरे । तद्वंशे शळ इत्युद्ग्रमिहमा सर्वाम्महीं बाहुना भुंजानो नृपतिर्किजां शशपुरीमध्यास्त शास्त्रेक्षणः॥ वासंतीं कुलदेवतासरपतिर्कितुं कदाचित् गतस्त-
- 7 त्पार्श्वे निवसंतमाश्रयइसौ सिद्धं च तत्रांतरे । शार्दूलो बलवान्जिषृश्चरगमत्तं ब्या-जघानापभीस्सिद्धेनापि च होण्शळेति कथितः कर्णाटवाचा नृपः॥ तत्कालात्प्र-भृति प्रतीतिमभजन्यद्वंशजा भूभुजस्त-
- 8 **म्नाम्मेच यदीयदानकथनैः कर्नोपि नाकर्ण्यते । तस्यासीदेरयंगभूपरिवृदः पुत्रस्ततोजायत** भीमान्विष्णुरदेाषधर्मविहितौ वेधाः परमूतनः॥ तत्पुत्रो नर्रासहभूमिदयितस्त-
- 9 स्माग्महीबल्लमो बल्लाळोजनि दानमातत्तुत यः प्रत्यर्थिनामर्थिनां । तस्याभूत्तनयो नृसिंहनृपतिस्रोळप्रतिष्ठापकः पाण्ड्यानामवित स्म मण्डलमितस्फीतेन शौर्योष्मणा ॥
  तेन स्थाबरजंगमस्य जगतो नेता निय-

- 10 न्ता द्विषां सोमस्सोम इवोदपादि सकला यास्मिन् प्रसेदुः कलाः। आसामास विज्ञलेति महिला गंगव दुग्धांबुधेस्तुंगश्रीठिदयाय कल्पक इव श्रीनारसिंह-स्तयोः॥ यस्य
- 11 क्रिक्तपाणकोणकषणत्रुट्यद्विषत्कन्धराकीलश्चयोतदमन्दलोहितपय: पूरैव्विद्युद्धं यदा: । योस्मिन्दातरि कातरस्सुरतरुः कर्णस्सिक्तं वर्ण्यते चिन्तारक्वमचिन्त्यमेवसुरिमस्सौल-
- 12 प्रयमभ्यस्यतु ॥ पुरे वसन्दोरससुद्रनाम्नि सोयं नृसिंहः क्षितिपालसिंहः। कदाचिदा-स्थानमथाध्यतिष्ठसत्रोत्थितो दानमयः प्रसंगः॥ तदात्वे सत्वानामपि इदय-
- 13 वेदी मतिमताम्मद्दीयान्मूर्जन्यस्सकलनृपसामन्तसद्सः। नृसिद्दश्मापालप्रणयरसिकस्सोम-सचिवस्स्वपीठाचेतोभिस्सद्दितमद्दितानामृद्य-
- 14 लत् ॥ मिल्लदेवपृतनापितस्स्वयं यत्स्यसुः प्रथम पव नन्दनः । वारितारिनृपशौर्यपा-वकः पाणिधूततरवारिधारया ॥ चिक्ककेतयचम्धुरन्धरो यस्य
- 15 बाहुधुरमन्यदुर्धरां। आविमर्त्ति नर्रासहभूपतेः पुत्रभाण्डमपि मण्डनं भुवः॥ प्रणम्य-तिष्ठन्तमवेश्य सोमं सभागिनेयं यतुर्वशचन्द्रः। विश्वाय त-
- 16 त्कार्थ्यमशेषमाशु प्रादात् स्वयं तस्य समीहितानि ॥ पुनश्च तेनैव कृतेप्रहारे प्रति-ष्ठितानाम्मुरभित्तनूनां। पूजार्थमस्मै त्रिसहस्रसंख्यं करस्वमात्मीयम-
- 17 दात्स नित्यं ॥ सोपि सोमयदण्डेशो यथाई तमकल्पयत् । प्रकटीकियते सोयमर्थः कण्णीटभाषया ॥

#### В.

The Sanskrit portion (lines 1-42) of the inscription at Harihar.

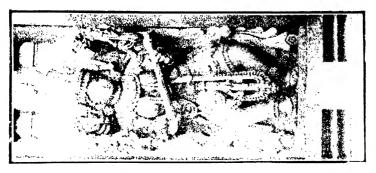
- 1 श्रीहरिहरायनमः॥ नमस्तुगशिरश्लंबिचंद्रचामरचारवे। त्रैलोक्यनगरारंममूल-
- 2 स्तंमाय शंभवे ॥ श्रीकांतः स जयित केलिकोलम् चिल्लांकार्त्तिप्रथितपयोधिकुं मजन्मा । यहं शिकासित-
- 3 केतकच्छ्वाग्रे भृंगीय स्फुरित शुमा वसुंधरेयं ॥ समवतु गजवदनो वः शश्वद्विश्व-प्रशस्तावस्तारः । अनुकुरु-
- 4 ते यः पितरं मद्जलिमिलितालिनीलितप्रीवः ॥ सा कल्याणावतारं कल्यतु कम-लावासकांता सितां-

#### SIGNED IMAGES

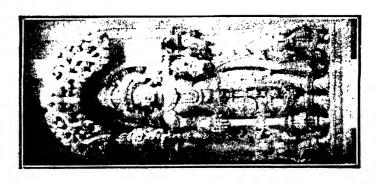




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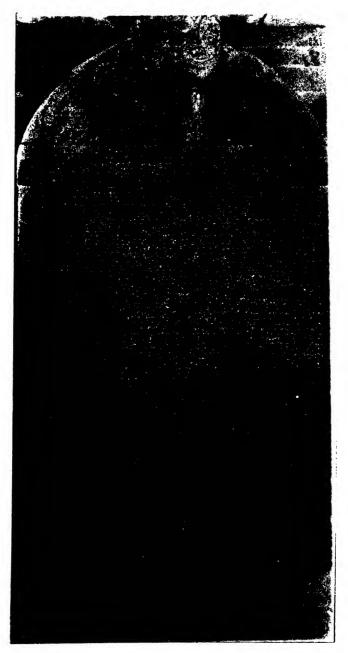


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- मश्चोतज्योतिर्विताना सकलकलसुधाकायदायादयक्का । या पादांभोजभाजां निरविध कुठते श्रीविला-
- 6 सं विशालं किंच प्रोदंचिंदुयुतिलहरिपरीहासिनो वाग्विलासान् ॥ देवः पायाद-पायाद्वः श्रीशो यस्य त-
- 7 तुर्नेतु । त्रिलोकीभामिनीभाले कस्तूरीतिलकायते ॥ मौलिप्रोल्लासिपाणिस्थितवलयकलाः सर्थतल्पान्धिशायिश्रीकांतानाः
- थच्छुस्तुहिनकिरणतः श्रीरब्क्पौनब्क्तचं । कुर्व्वन् संरंभदूरोचितिसुरनदीशीकराकार-सारास्ताराः श्लीरांबुराशिप्रतिम-
- 9 वनरुवः ताडवं वः पुनातु ॥ श्रीकांताद्वयमस्ति वस्तु भवनध्वंसानभिद्धं महः सर्वद्धं भुवनो क्रवस्थितिलयन्यापार-
- 10 पारंगतं । तम्नामीसरसीरुहस्रमरतामद्यापि विद्योतयन्धाता नृतनविश्वसंभवकलाप्राग-रुश्यमभ्यस्यति ॥ वंदास्तत्पा-
- 11 व्जन्मा जगति विजयते यामिनीकामुकश्रीमिश्रीमावैकभूमिः स्वचरितविमवाकांतिव्-कक्रवालः। तस्मिन्वि-
- 12 स्मेरतेजोब्रजभुवि जनने विक्रमप्रक्रमासिब्यापाराप्तारिनारीजननयनझरीवार्समुद्रः स इद्रः ॥ योसी वैरिनरेंद्र-
- 13 चंद्रवद्नालंकारसत्काननप्रोद्दीप्यद्वयादवान्वयमहावाराशितारापतेः। कल्याणाधिपतेर-मात्यतिलको हेमादिभू-
- 14 मीभुजः शत्रुक्षत्रियतक्षदक्षिणभुजस्तंमः समुज्जृंभितः॥ कंठे न धत्ते स्म विषं द्विजि-हेर्ज संगमज्ञीकुरुते स्म नापि। जडाभ-
- 15 यो नोम्रतया प्रसिद्धस्तथाप्यसौ नोज्झितरुद्रमुद्रः॥ तस्माद्स्मादजनि रजनीनायकस्फीत-कायज्योतिर्घा-
- 16 टीप्रकटितयशा नायको मैलयाच्यः। वैरिश्लोणीरमणतवणीसञ्जवकञ्जलानां प्रत्यादेशव्यस-
- 17 जैकस्तज्जलानां ॥ भाविस्सावित्रतेजोविजयिनिजभुजादंडचंडप्रतापस्तस्मादासीत् स्वदा-सीकृतरिपुनिकरो हेग्गडः ख-
- 18 इगबीरः। मैलः कल्याणनायक्षितिपतिषिमवांमोधिश्वद्राषतारो भूजातः पारिजातस्तिरयति च सुधामाधु-
- 19 र्री साधुवादैः ॥ तस्यासीद्दस्तितोत्पल्पुतिकलासौरप्रयगर्भेश्वरस्थायल्लोचनविद्यमा गुणगण-भीज्यायसी प्रेयसी । ना-

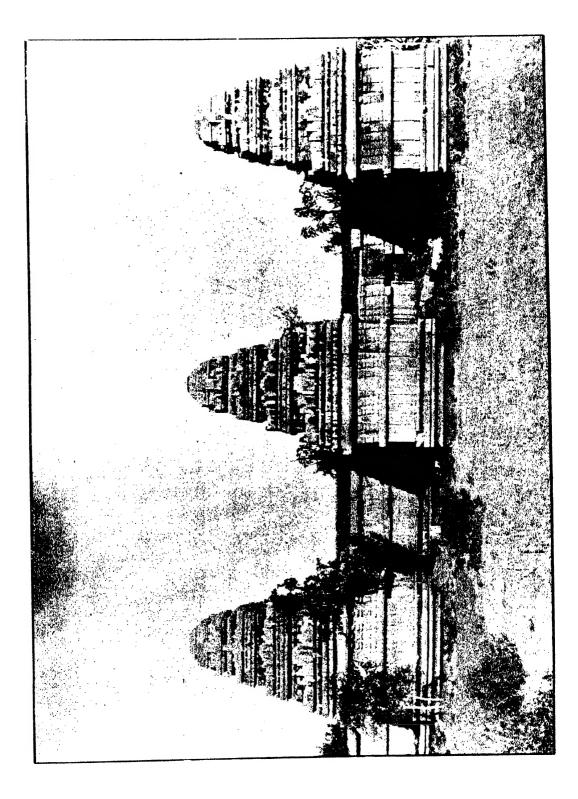
- 20 क्षा यापि च रेवलेति विदिता घासा च हेमप्रमा दास्नापि स्मयते स्मितेन च सुधामानुं मुदा निंदति ॥ तस्यामाविर-
- 21 भूदभूतचिक्तताबक्षामलक्ष्मीसमायासो हेग्गडनायकाद्गुणमिलम्मुकाबलीनायकात्। कीर्ति-ज्योतिरमंदचंदनप-
- 22 यःप्रायं वितम्बन्नयं सोमो नामत एव नारितरुणीवक्त्राष्ट्रतंकोचकः ॥ ख्यातः श्रीहोय्सला-लीकुलजलिखसुधा-
- 23 दीधितिधीं घुरीणः श्रीकेलचोलपांक्यप्रभृतिनरपतिस्थापनाचार्य ईशः। वीरः श्रीसोमभूमी-परिवृद्धतनयो ना-
- 24 रसिंहिश्वतीशो यत्स्वामी सोमनामा जगित विजयते वाहिनीवल्लभोयं ॥ नृनं सोमचम्ना-थः श्री-
- 25 वारिकरिणां गणः । अन्यथा कथमुद्भृतिदीनांबुसरितामतः ॥ निर्मितो धर्मशिलेन कविमि-र्येन वर्ण्यते । अग्रहारः सु-
- 26 साधारः कावेरीसरितस्तटे ॥ कापि कापि नयावलीपरिमिलन्मीमांसया मांसलाः कापि कापि च तर्ककर्कशवचोवीची-
- 27 निचोलीकृताः। कापि कापि च शब्दयह्मकवितासंवावद्काः शुकाः श्रीविद्यानिधिसोमना-थनगरी सा भाति भूषा भुवः॥
- 28 कावेरीसरितस्तटं पुरहरः श्रीनारसिंहेश्वरः श्रीलक्ष्मीनृहरिस्तथा मुरहरः श्रीयोगनारायणः।
- 29 पेशान्यां दिशि पंच पंचवदनाः श्रीविज्ञलेशादयो गोपालेन जनार्दनेन च सह श्रीकेशयो मध्यतः ॥ मस्स्याचा दश मूर्तयो
- 30 मुरहरा नारायणा द्वादश प्राकारेषु च केशवादय इतः संकर्षणाद्यास्तथा । विष्वक्सेनमु-खास्तथा च बह-
- 31 वः पद्मासर्नेद्रादिना देवाः सोमपुरे सहापिच गिरा येन प्रतिष्ठापिताः ॥ यस्याप्रजो मेलय-नामधेयः सेनाप-
- 32 तिर्विधितभागधेयः। यद्भागिनेयो रिपुगात्रभृक्षः श्रीमिक्षिदेशोरियनैकदावः॥ यद्दानतोषिता-कारा निर्दोषैर्गु-
- 33 भनैर्गिरां। आशीराशिमयैरेवं वर्णयंति गुणार्णवं ॥ श्रीसोमाङ्कयदंडनायक भुजादंडप्रतापा-र्कभूः प्राची-
- 34 नाचलमंडलीकपरिषज्जृंभाक्षिलस्वस्तिभूः। वैरिश्रीहर गायिगोवल भुवि श्रीगंडपेंडार ते चंडीशः ग्रुभवेभवं वित-



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Mysore Archaeological Survey.





- 35. नुतादाचंद्रचंडयुति ॥ इत्थं तद्वंशजातस्तुतिविततिमिलद्गीर्भिरम्युन्नतश्रीस्फायचार्वाक-बौद्धागमतिमिररचि-
- 36. स्तर्कतंत्रस्वतंत्रः । स्फूर्जज्ञैनांबुराशिष्रसनचतुरताकुंभजन्मावतारो धीरो गंगाधरार्यस्ति-लक्कयति सभां य-
- 37. श्च भासां निवासः ॥ वैकुंठे नीलकंठे निगमनिकथितं ख्यापयश्चद्वयं यः क्षोणीयका-वतीर्णो जगतुदयहतिस्थैर्य-
- 38. धुर्येण येन। दृष्टेनानेन पुंसां करतलकलिता सापि कैवल्यलक्ष्मीरक्षामा सोस्ति देवो जगति दृरिहरो
- 39. यस्य दासः स सोमः ॥ श्रीगौरीजीवितं सर्पेचंद्रोत्तंसितमद्वयं । इत्थं विकत्यते यश्च महस्तत्वं सितासि-
- 40. तं ॥ हरिहर परिहर दुरितं मम तव चरणाञ्जचंचरीकस्य । हरिहर निरवधि वितर त्यमनंतानंतभोगभाग्भागान् ॥
- 41. शाके काले नवतिशतकप्रोत्तरेऽसिन् सहस्रे जातेब्दानामुपरि विभवे वत्सरे वर्त-माने । देवोत्तंसाकृतिहरिहरागारतो द्वा-
- 42. रदेशे सत्प्रासादं कनककलशैः सोमनाथो ब्यधत्त ॥ गंडपेंडारसोमस्य दंडनाथशि-स्नामणेः । धर्मः शर्मकराकारो जीयादाचंद्रतारकं ॥

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